

Filed for intro on 03/06/2000

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 509  
By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Allen Pavatte and the Covington High School Chargers on winning the 1999 TSSAA Class AA State Baseball Championship.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those exceptional young athletes who have evidenced the highest degree of individual effort and team spirit in capturing the most prestigious title that Tennessee high school sports has to offer; and

WHEREAS, despite seemingly insurmountable odds, the Covington High School Chargers rebounded from a slow 2-5 start during the 1999 season and subsequently won the TSSAA Class AA State Baseball Championship; and

WHEREAS, Covington's inspirational season marks the school's first state championship in any sport and only the second state championship in Tipton County history; and

WHEREAS, the Covington Chargers captured the Class AA state baseball title in an impressive manner; they were unbeaten in the state tournament and twice defeated three-time

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champion and heavily favored Marshall County, 1-0 in the first round and 7-4 in the championship game; and

WHEREAS, the Covington Chargers wisely disregarded the prognostications of the naysayers who gave them little chance of posting a winning season, and no chance of winning a state championship, and simply went about the team's business of hitting, fielding and winning baseball games; and

WHEREAS, the Chargers quickly recovered from their slow start to finish the season with an amazing 24-game winning streak; their final loss of the season came on April 9, 1999 in "The Best of the West" tournament; and

WHEREAS, after demolishing all competition to win the District 13 tournament, Covington then proceeded to defeat McNairy Central, Milan and Ridgeway, emerging from the fray as Champions of Region 7 and advancing to the state tournament; and

WHEREAS, the Chargers could not have possibly won a state title without the superior play and mature leadership of their seven senior standouts: pitcher Zach Cook, (Most Valuable Player of the Class AA State Tournament and member of the All-Tournament Team) who pitched eight shutout innings in leading his team to a 1-0 victory in the first round, and who then pitched three near flawless innings in the title game; pitcher Joel Posey, who pitched a four-hitter in the win over Chattanooga Central in the semi finals and who finished the season 11-2; infielders William Allen Wooten (All-Tournament) and Parks Russell; outfielder Jeremy Kellum (All-Tournament); designated hitter Gene Coltrane; and pinch runner Greg Williams; and

WHEREAS, the Chargers also benefited greatly from the outstanding, gutsy performances of pitcher Drew Parr, who started and won the title game against Marshall County; infielder Brandon Shelton (All-Tournament); catcher Drew Glass, platoon outfielders Kayo Anderson and Jon Ashford; and sweet-swinging Dabney Maxwell; and

WHEREAS, Coach Allen Pavatte and his assistants did an outstanding job of molding his Chargers' great individual talent into a "diamond quality" team who stuck together through thick and thin; and

WHEREAS, these exemplary young men have distinguished themselves not only as great athletes and true champions, but also as peerless sportsmen and gentlemen of whom their parents, teachers, coaches, classmates and the members of this General Assembly are very proud; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Coach Allen Pavatte and the Covington High School Chargers on winning the 1999 TSSAA Class AA State Baseball Championship; salute their perseverance in the face of adversity and their dedication to excellence, both on and off the field; and wish them much continued success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copies.